Vol. VIII. Numb. 49

THE OBSERVATOR.

A Letter from Surrey, *complaining of the Behaviour of the Governor of a certain Fort, and ſome others, when the* French *landed 60 Men lately in* Suſſex, *and on the ſpreading of falſe News there, as alſo of foreſtalling of Corn, and that Bakers give ſhort Weight of Bread in thoſe Parts, which ſome Juſtices pretend they know not how to puniſh; with Reflexions upon it. The Growth of arbitrary Principles among us, and Remiſſneſs in puniſhing them. On the Propoſals to ſettle the* Palatines *in* Carolina, *&c.*

From Saturday, July 16. to Wednesday, July 20. 1709.

Country-m. HEre's a Letter, Maſter, from a Gentleman in *Surrey*, with an Account of the Good that the *Obſervators* have done in thoſe Parts, by formerly expoſing the Correſpondence betwixt *France* and Part of *Suſſex*, adjoining to the Sea, which on that Account the People of the Country call *French Suſſex*.

Obſ. I am glad that our Endeavours are uſeful to honeſt Men any where, *Roger*. 'Tis our Deſign to expoſe the Practices of the Enemies of the Government, as Information comes to our Hands; but I am ſorry we ſhould have Occaſion for it, and that there ſhould be ſuch unnatural Monſters in any Part of the Kingdom, as to give the leaſt Ground to call it by the Name of *French*. Her Majeſty's Heart is entirely *Britiſh*; but 'tis our Misfortune and Diſgrace, that there ſhould be ſo many among us, whoſe Hearts are entirely *French*, or which is the ſame Thing, *Jacobite*. Pray what new Account does that Gentleman ſend us of the Behaviour of that Sort of People there?

Country-m. He writes, Maſter, that when the *French* lately landed 60 Men in thoſe Parts, as we had an Account in our publick Papers, the Governor of a neighbouring Fort did not fire one Gun, and few of the Inhabitants of a certain Town on that Coaſt, made any Efforts to oppoſe them, tho' ſome honeſt Men got together, who fought and repuls'd them, as you have heard.

Obſ. I hope, *Roger*, ſuch good Country-men, as the Author of the Letter, have ſent an Account of this to thoſe at the Helm, that there may be Care taken to enquire into the Behaviour of the Governor of that Fort, and of the Cauſe of it. I hope there's no Want of Powder and Ball there, that the Guns are fitted with Carriages, *&c.* and not in ſuch a Condition as thoſe of the *Scotch* Caſtles were when the Pretender came to invade that Country. Paſt Dangers ſhould teach us more Caution and Diligence for the future. The Behaviour of the Inhabitants of that Town, ought alſo to be enquir'd into, that ſuch of them as acquitted themſelves duly, may be encourag'd, and thoſe who acted otherwiſe, may be puniſh'd; for Reward and Puniſhment are the Life and Soul of Government. In the mean Time, *Roger*, this is another Inſtance of the Complaints ſo frequently made, that ill Men are employ'd in Places of Truſt: But we all know there are ſome among us, who make ſuch Men their Darlings, while they are for excluding thoſe, who, by Principle and Intereſt, are firm to the Government.

Country-m. I believe, Maſter, the *French* would never have been ſo inſolent as to land 60 Men there, had they not been pretty well aſſur'd, that they were not ſuddenly like to meet with much Oppoſition. I ſuppoſe the ſcurvy Woollers may have had ſome Influence in this Matter; for if the *French* can ſo eaſily land on our Coaſts, they may with more Eaſe carry off our Wooll, which I think ought to be ſtrictly enquir'd into, that our numerous Poor may not be robb'd of their Employment, our Woollen Manufactory ſo much damag'd, and our Enemy's Trade ſo much encourag'd, by the Neglect of ſome, and the Treachery of others. Had the Repreſentation of the Lords againſt *French* Correſpondents, who were employ'd not long ago under the Notion of Spies for the Government, been more duly regarded, and thoſe concern'd in it exemplarly puniſh'd, the Boldneſs of others might by this Time have been curb'd; but there's ſuch a Slackneſs ſomewhere in proceeding againſt ſuch Men, and ſo much Encouragement given to their Principles, while Mr. *Hoadly*, and others, who oppoſe them, are revil'd and traduc'd, as forebodes us no Good, Maſter; but this is only a Hint by the Way. I muſt tell you, that the ſame Gentleman complains heavily of other Abuſes in that Country, *viz.* That the Bakers don't make their Bread full Weight; that ſometimes there wants two Pound in a half Peck Loaf, and when Complaints of it are made to ſome Juſtices of the Peace, they ſay, they can find no Law to puniſh them, becauſe they are ſo many Miles from *London*. He adds, that at a Market-Town in the *Eaſt* Part of *Suſſex*, there have been Market-Days wherein he has not ſeen one Hand-full of Corn in the Market-Houſe, but that 'tis ſold in the Inns, ſo that no Man can buy leſs than a Sack; which he takes to be foreſtalling of the Market, and ſtarving of the Poor: And he concludes with an Account, that in Part of *Surrey* they have falſe News frequently ſpread, to diſcourage the People, ſuch as, *That a Quarter of our Army is cut off*, &c.

Obſ. I am ſorry to hear of thoſe Things, *Roger*. I am afraid, at that Rate, there's a *French Surrey*, as well as a *French Suſſex*; and I wiſh there may not be too many Counties in *Great Britain*, Part of which may deſerve that Denomination. This I doubt not would too ſoon appear, ſhould the divine Providence think fit to puniſh us for our national Sins, and our Neglect of national Application to God, by any Diſaſter or Want of Succeſs beyond Sea. We have a *French* Church among us too, as well as a *French Surrey* and a *French Suſſex*, as appears by their ſtrenuous Endeavours to revive the ſlaviſh Principles of former Reigns in 30th of *January*, and other Sermons and Pamphlets, which openly ſtrike at her Majeſty's Title, and the Foundations of our Liberties, built upon *Magna Charta*, the Petition of Right, and Inſtrument of Government; which looks as if there were a Multiplication of *Hydra's* Heads, and that inſtead of one *Rehearſal*, which is only *laid down*, for I can't ſay it was *put down*, we have 20 *French* Advocates for Tyranny and Slavery of the ſame Stamp, and ſome of them too dignify'd and diſtinguiſh'd. This, in my Opinion, *Roger*, ſome of our Great Men ought to conſider and prevent, not becauſe of the Strength of our Adverſaries Arguments, which have been confuted a hundred times, but becauſe of the Encouragement it gives to the *French* Faction among us, to ſee, that their Principles are ſpread every Day with Impunity. But I leave this at preſent, and return to the Gentleman's Letter. I am ſorry there ſhould be any ſuch Men in the Commiſſi-

on of the Peace, as make their Distance from *London* the Measure for putting the Laws in Execution. What must become of the People at the Land's End in *Cornwall*, *Cumberland*, and *Northumberland*, if this Doctrine should obtain? And in what a dreadful Condition must the People beyond *Tweed* be, especially so far *North* as *Caithness* on the Continent, and *Schetland* in our Island, if the Laws must lose their Force, and the Executive Power slag in Proportion to the Number of Miles that any Part of the united Kingdom lies from the Seat of the Government? This is a new Sort of Doctrine, *Roger*, that ought to be taken Care of in Time, before it spread too far. But since the Gentleman desires my Advice, I will freely give it him.

Country-m. Pray do, Master. He says you will procure the Prayers and Blessings of honest People by it, especially of the Poor, whose Faces are ground by those Forestallers, Regraters, and knavish Bakers, that make Use of false Weight; and of the honest Revolution-men, who are impos'd upon and discourag'd by the Spreaders of false News.

Obs. Why, *Roger*, I would advise him, and other such well-meaning Gentlemen, to tell their ignorant or lazy Justices to put on their Spectacles; not those of St. *Germains* or *Versailles*, but such as are of true *English* Make; and when they have done so, let them look into the Kalendars of their Statute-Books, and there they will be directed to Laws for bringing knavish Bakers to the Pillory, and roguish Brewers to the Tumbrel, and how to punish Forestallers, Regraters, and Spreaders of false News; and if the Justices don't perform their Duty, the Persons aggriev'd may consult the Learned in the Law, how to obtain a Redress. In the mean Time, 'tis hard they can't find lawful Men enough in Towns to call for Weights and Measures, and look into the Assize of Bread, nor two lawful Witnesses to inform against Forestallers and Regraters, but that the Poor must be oppress'd, and have their Faces ground thro' Neglect, at such a Time as this, when there's a general Complaint of Want of Money and Business. That's the Way to increase our Poor, and make them tumultuous indeed; and how consistent this is with the Duty of a Justice of Peace, let those who are concern'd see to it. They may some Time or other find to their Cost, that tho' Justice has Leaden Feet, she has Iron Hands, and will squeeze them to Purpose, when once she overtakes them.

Country-m. I think, Master, such Men deserve very ill to be in the Commission of the Peace, who do so wretchedly neglect our own Poor at this Time, when many ill Men raise such a Clamour against the Government on Account of the Naturalization-Act, and the poor *Palatines*. However, I am glad to find such generous Proposals in Behalf of those distress'd Strangers, by the Lords Proprietors of *Carolina*, where, I am told, they may be very usefully settl'd to the Advantage of *Great Britain*.

Obs. I was very well pleas'd to see that Advertisement in the *Gazette*, *Roger*, and hope 'twill contribute to stop the Mouths of those, who said, we have more Poor of our own, than we know how to employ; whereas in Truth they ought to have said, we have a great many Vagrants, that don't care for Employment, so long as they can live by Begging. Were the Nation rid of those Harpies, who eat up what would maintain the Poor that are capable and willing to work, those Complaints would soon be at an End; but if we have many such Justices as the Gentleman complains of, that either know not the Laws, or will not put them in Execution against Vagrants, and for setting the Poor at Work, Poverty will advance upon us like an armed Man. As to the Employment of the *Palatines*, it must be left to the Lords, and others, commission'd to receive Proposals for their being set at Work, to judge which of those Proposals is like to be most practicable, and of the greatest Advantage to the Publick. In the mean Time, I am glad to hear, that any of them are like to be employ'd at Home, for a present Subsistance, 'till farther Means can be found. Since we are the Mother Nation, and far from having a Number of People proportion'd to the Extent of our Country, 'tis but reasonable we should first take Care of our selves. It will likewise require Consideration, in which of our *American* Colonies they may be settl'd, so as to be most useful to *Britain*. Those who have writ upon that Subject, compute, that at least 90 Parts in 100 of the *British* Empire in *America*, are still unpeopl'd; that one Year with another, our Plantations there drain'd us of near 2000 People; that Negroes are sold there usually at betwixt 20 and 30 *l. per* Head; which is an evident Proof of the Advantage we may make by receiving the *Palatines*, whether we employ them at Home or Abroad; for since they are known to be good Planters, and that in our *Southern* Colonies in *America*, one Planter was reckon'd as good as seven Men in *England*, because they usually employ'd six Negroes, if our Trade be encourag'd, and Things rightly manag'd, we are in no Danger of being surcharg'd by the Arrival of foreign Protestants.

N. B. The Gentleman that wrote to the *Observator* lately from *Yorkshire*, about sending him some *Palatines* to cultivate Ground there, may appoint his Friend in Town to attend the Lords, and others, who are commission'd to receive Proposals for employing them.

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LONDON, Printed by *H. Meere*, and sold by *B. Bragge* in *Pater-Noster-Row*. 1709.